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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Contraband Trade in Rare Metals

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Polish government is doing everything in its power to get hold of such rare raw materials as cadmium, cerium, cobalt, lithium, mercury, radium, selenium, tantalum, tellurium, zirconium. It is possible that these raw materials are sent on to the USSR as soon as they reach Poland.

25X1 2. Two Polish firms, Hartwig & Co., [redacted] have instructions to try to buy up raw materials of this sort in small quantities, so as not to attract attention. Loading is to be done at sea and outside territorial waters. Another method, sometimes used, is to export these commodities to some western country, and there reconsign them to Poland.

25X1 3. A [redacted] firm has already received authorization to look for selenium [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] Ostensibly, this is for [redacted] but it is actually for re-export to Poland. In this case, also, instructions are to purchase small quantities, so that it will be easier to smuggle them.

4. It is stated that, in some cases, merchandise of no apparent importance, exported from certain states, in fact contains rare raw materials, being shipped, under cover, to Poland.

5. Poland is also searching the different European markets, in an effort to get hold of steel for Red China. Prices requested are c.i.f., Gdynia (Poland). The steel will be transported thence to Red China in Polish vessels. Negotiations are now under way between various shipyards and Polish customers, looking to the purchase of new ships for the Polish merchant marine. Negotiations are handled by the Chinese-Polish shipping company, Shipbroker, 158, Ma Chang Dac, Tientsin. This firm has a branch at 14 Ul. Lutego, Gdynia. Capital is supplied by the Chinese and Soviet Governments.

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